

Message Text

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64

ACTION EB-07

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SUBJ: MAJOR EXPORT PROJECTS PROGRAM - AGRO-BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

REF: LIBREVILLE A-083 DATED DECEMBER 3, 1974

1. DURING RECENT VISIT OF EXIM DIRECTOR MITCHELL KOBELINSKI, KOBELINSKI RAISED POSSIBILITY OF AGRO-BUSINESS ENTERPRISES IN GABON WITH MINFIN MOUKAMBI. RATIONALE IS THAT GABON CURRENTLY IMPORTS VIRTUALLY ALL ITS FOOD, THAT THERE ARE LARGE AREAS OF RELATIVELY FERTILE LAND AVAILABLE AND THAT WITH SMALL LABOR FORCE GABON IS IDEAL SPOT FOR HIGHLY MECHANIZED AGRO-BUSINESS ENTERPRISE. POSSIBILITY OF EXPORTS TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES ALSO EXISTS. MOUKAMBI INTERESTED IN IDEA AND SAID THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM IN LAND BEING MADE AVAILABLE FOR SUCH ENTERPRISES. HE SUGGESTED AREAS AROUND LIBREVILLE AND PORT-GENIL AS INITIAL POSSIBILITIES, SINCE THEY WOULD BE NEAR MARKET. MOUKAMBI STATED HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN TALKING FURTHER ABOUT POSSIBILITY AND DESIRED CONTACT WITH PEOPLE REPRESENTING SUCH ENTERPRISES.

2. COMMENT. AS REFAIR POINTS OUT, GABON'S CURRENT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION VERY LOW. MOST FOODSTUFFS IMPORTED AND THUS VERY EXPENSIVE. ALTHOUGH MINISTER MENTIONED AREAS AROUND LIBREVILLE AND PORT GENTIL AS LIKELY SPOTS FOR ENTERPRISE, IT EMBASSY'S OPINION
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THAT THESE WOULD MOST LIKELY ONLY BE SUITABLE FOR RAISING

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. MORE EXTENSIVE, HIGHLY INTEGRATED
COMPLEX INCLUDING CATTLE RAISING MORE PROBABLE IN NORTH
CENTRAL WOLEU-N'TEM REGION. CONSTRUCTION OF TRANSGABON
RAILROAD AND ASSOCIATED FEEDER ROADS WOULD MAKE QUICK
EVACUATION OF PRODUCTS OF ENTERIRISE IN THIS AREA FEASIBLE.
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